

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY
2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met at UCOP once and nine times by videoconference in Academic Year 2024-2025 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and in the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the “[Compendium](#)”). The major activities of the committee and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows.

UC Center Sacramento

A member of UCEP participated on a joint Senate-Administration workgroup convened by Provost Newman and UC Davis Provost Croughan to recommend ways to restructure the UC Center Sacramento (UCCS). Goals of the restructuring include expanding undergraduate student enrollment beyond UCD and attracting students with interests outside of public or government policy which would also require engaging faculty who have not been involved with UCCS in the past. The restructuring workgroup contemplated strategies to improve the financial sustainability of the Center. At the behest of Provost Newman, UCEP also considered how to help students from campuses other than UCD receive credit for UCCS courses toward their major. Since the committee cannot require that campuses award credit for UCCS courses, a [memo from UCEP](#) was transmitted to the divisions in February encouraging departments to be generous when deciding about granting credit in a major.

Substantive Compendium Revisions

[The Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units](#) was last revised in 2014 and does not reflect a number of significant changes in practice related to the establishment of academic units and programs. A small subcommittee of UCEP members identified potential updates and drafted revised language which includes additional information that should be provided in full proposals for new programs. The systemwide provost shall determine when the Academic Planning Council will establish a workgroup to incorporate revisions to the Compendium.

2025-2026 Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs Task Force

This year, UCEP had a number of discussions about the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs Task Force (PUDP), the successor to the 2023-2024 Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Education. The committee provided the Senate Chair and Vice Chair with suggestions for the PUDP charge which include conducting a market analysis that assesses student demand for online classes and programs; delineating the infrastructure needs for fully online programs; and determining how support and training will be provided for faculty interested in online pedagogy. In addition, several UCEP members prepared a series of principles for the common assessment of in-person and online courses which will be transmitted to the new task force by Senate leadership. Central to the principles are the identification of core metrics that will help differentiate quality across and within modalities and to prioritize collecting data related to learning outcomes.

Curricular Review of UC Washington Center

UCEP was asked by UC Washington Center's (UCDC) Executive Director Golash-Boza to review 25 new and revised courses. UCDC refined the descriptions of systemwide courses formerly approved by UCEP based on updated program learning outcomes (PLOs) and added new courses associated with the new PLOs. UCEP's lead reviewers found that the new and revised courses are aligned with UCDC's curriculum and that the curriculum reflects what is specific to and important about being in Washington, DC. The committee approved the 25 courses during its April and May meetings. Executive Director Golash-Boza and UCDC Director of Academic and Student Services Ellis joined UCEP in April to report on the status of the program including enrollment and student participation in internships.

Principles for Awarding Degrees Posthumously

The fall 2024 systemwide review of a proposed new Senate Regulation 627 to codify a policy for awarding degrees posthumously presented by the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and UCEP generated questions and concerns from the divisions which Academic Council asked the committees to address. Based on the divisions' feedback, CCGA and UCEP agreed that the best course of action would be to delineate a set of principles the campuses might follow to recognize the academic achievements of students who die while engaged in their studies and to extend sympathy and compassion towards their families. The [principles](#) were endorsed by Council on July 23rd and have been disseminated to the divisions.

Definition of a Systemwide Course

In 2023-2024, the committee agreed that [Senate Bylaw \(SB\) 170.B.3](#) should be revised to clarify that UCEP is responsible for approving and reviewing both systemwide courses and systemwide programs and that reviews will occur every seven years. When the committee began considering a proposed revision to the bylaw this winter, it was decided that "systemwide course" should be defined. Over the course of several months, the committee debated the criteria for the systemwide course designation and upheld that these courses are offered at sites that are not one of UC's ten regular campuses. The Natural Reserve System California Conservation and Ecology field course and many UCDC courses are current examples of systemwide courses. A UCEP member drafted a definition which will be the basis for an updated set of guidelines for approving and reviewing systemwide courses in the future. The guidelines will be updated likely beginning in Fall 2025.

Support for Students Unable to Complete Their Education at a UC Campus

At the beginning of April, the Academic Senate received an urgent request from Provost Newman to consider how the University can support students unable to complete their UC degree on their home campus due to disruptions in instructional continuity. UCEP held an emergency meeting to decide upon guidance for Senate divisions on how to support students' progress in completing UC coursework and other graduation requirements. The guidance noted that existing systemwide Senate regulations provide a significant degree of flexibility to support the completion of UC degree requirements in cases where remote instruction is the only practicable option. While some actions would require a variance or exception, many fall within the purview of divisions under Senate regulations and the memo does not provide a comprehensive list of all applicable policies. [The guidance from UCEP, along with recommendations from the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs](#), was transmitted to Provost Newman on April 15th.

Other Issues and Additional Business

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP issued reviews of the following:

- Proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 479
- UCR's request for a variance to systemwide Senate Regulation 780
- Proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual policy 036
- Proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 170 and Rescission of Senate Bylaw 192
- Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report
- UCSD's proposal to change the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences
- UCSB's proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

UCEP touched on a variety of other issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS), and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy/Undergraduate Councils.

UCEP Representation

UCEP Chair Goodhue represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council and Academic Assembly. Chair Goodhue also participated on the Provost's monthly budget briefing calls; the Academic Planning Council (APC); the APC's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup; and ICAS. UCEP was represented by Vice Chair Sugar (UCLA) on the ICAS California General Education Transfer Curriculum Standards Review Subcommittee; by Jay Sharping (UCM) on the UC Online Advisory Council; by Allison Perlman (UCI) on the UC Washington Center's Academic Advisory Council; by Gireeja Ranade (UCB) on the Academic Senate Artificial Intelligence Workgroup; and by David Kyle (UCD) on the UC Education Abroad Advisory Board.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements

UCEP benefited from consultation with and reports from: Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy Development, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP); Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning and Policy, IRAP; Ethan Savage, Academic Planning and Policy Analyst, IRAP; Chris Furguele, Director, IRAP; and Rolin Moe, Executive Director, UC Online, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs. In addition, UCEP consulted with the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

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